



Five- and Ten-Year Plan for Intergenerational Poverty Highlights

Updated 3.31.15

Core takeaway: This plan represents a pivotal turning point from solely researching to understand intergenerational poverty, to outlining a policy vision to fix it.

Six Challenges of Intergenerational Poverty

1. Young children experiencing poverty are not ready to start kindergarten, which often leads to poor educational outcomes.
2. Families experiencing intergenerational poverty face economic challenges .
3. Children are often caught in a cycle of poor health, abuse and neglect.
4. Failure to intervene may lead to high societal costs such as incarceration, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse.
5. Lack of coordination and alignment across agencies serving those in poverty.
6. The need for long-term planning from the state and its communities.

Primary Goal of Five- and Ten-Year Plan

Measurably reduce the incidence of children in Utah who remain in the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency as they become adults.

Primary Goals for each Focus Area

- Early Childhood Development

10-Year: Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults are emotionally, cognitively and developmentally prepared for kindergarten.

5-Year: Align all systems involved in early childhood development to ensure Utah has the capacity to prepare children at risk of remaining in poverty for kindergarten.

- Education

10-Year: Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults graduate from high school at the rate equal to the statewide rate.

5-Year: Align systems assisting with educational outcomes to ensure efforts are focused in schools disproportionately impacted by intergenerational poverty. These systems include all levels of government, local schools, communities, business and nonprofits.

- Health



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10-Year: *Children experiencing intergenerational poverty are receiving physical, mental and dental care at the same rates as the statewide rates in each of those areas, regardless of where their family resides in Utah.*

5-Year: *Children experiencing intergenerational poverty have access to quality physical health, mental health and dental care, regardless of where their family resides in Utah.*

- Family Economic Stability

10-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in families that are self-sufficient.*

5-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in stable families, able to meet their basic needs (i.e. food, housing, health, safety and transportation).*

Benchmarks to Measure Progress

- Benchmarks are determined for each goal to be able to measure success as the work of the commission moves forward.
- The Five- and 10-Year Plan outlines the complete list of benchmarks for the overall goal and each focus area.

Looking Ahead

Next steps over the next 12 months:

1. Communicate the plan to key target audiences so each can begin engaging its constituencies.
2. Build the strategies necessary to reach the established benchmarks contained in this report.
3. Commission agency leadership and staff will develop internal plans.
4. Develop a short-term agenda for 2016 that will include a list of legislative actions needed.
5. Broaden involvement of constituencies that have not yet been engaged in addressing this issue.
6. Begin discussing the establishment of a system to monitor the progress on the goals so annual progress can be provided in the annual research and data report.